

Message Text

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11

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AEC-11 NSF-04 EB-11

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----- 108849

P 121413Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3119

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3907

CAIRO FOR SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E), TGEN, IS

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT--ISRAEL S&T INTERESTS

REF: STATE 148749

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES DOUBLING OF BSF ENDOWMENT AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL DESIRABLE AND TIMELY. BACKGROUND FOR THIS BELIEF DISCUSSED FULLY IN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO A/S ATHERTON, JULY 5.

2. ISRAELIS ANXIOUS BEGIN DEVELOPMENT OF ELEVEN MGD DESALINATION PLANT AS OUTLINED IN 1972 MOU. RECENT OFFICIAL OPENING OF 1 MGD PLANT AT EILAT HAS REVIVED EARLIER, SOMEWHAT MUTED QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS. LONG INACTIVITY AND SILENCE SINCE MOU PUZZLE AND DISTRUB ISRAEL. THEY WILL PROBABLY REQUEST USG APPROVAL OF PROJECT AND RELEASE OF \$20 MILLION APPROPRIATE BY 91ST CONGRESS.

3. RELATIVELY LITTLE R&D IN ISRAELI PRIVATE SECTOR. ISRAELIS WILL REQUEST THAT SUB-COMMITTEE ON SUBJECT BE ESTABLISHED TO EXPLORE METHODS OF INCREASING AND IMPROVING COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

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4. ISRAEL SPACE PROGRAM EXTREMELY MODEST. SOME

COOPERATION WITH NASA ALREADY EXISTS AS DOES INFORMATION EXCHANGE. DIFFICULT TO VISUALIZE EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BECAUSE OF LIMITED FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL IN FIELD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RAISED DURING SIMON VISIT.

5. HERMONI, SCIENCE ADVISOR, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY RECENTLY SUBMITTED NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO US AGENCIES FOR SUPPORT AND/OR COOPERATION IN ENERGY AREA. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THESE NOW BEING EVALUATED. SEVERAL, IN EMBASSY VIEW ARE EXTREMELY PROMISING, ESPECIALLY IN SOLAR ENERGY. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH WORK OF R&D SUB-COMMITTEE.
VELIOTES

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